

REMARKS

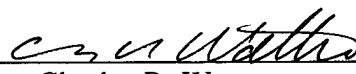
This amendment is presented after allowance of the application on first Office Action in order to make a few minor grammatical and editorial improvements in the specification and claims, but the amendments do not make any substantive revisions. In particular, the revisions to the claims are merely to improve the readability of the claims and do not change of the scope of the claims in any manner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.312 be entered as being directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.

Note: An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on October 13, 2004, in full compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98. In a telephone conference with the Examiner on November 29, 2004, the Examiner kindly informed the applicants' undersigned attorney that the Information Disclosure Statement papers were all of record in the PTO image file. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner ensure that the Information Disclosure Statement has been acted upon.

Respectfully submitted,

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